

Arnold Schwarzenegger <i>California</i>	Janet Napolitano <i>Arizona</i>	Sonny Perdue <i>Georgia</i>	Rick Perry <i>Texas</i>	Christine Gregoire <i>Washington</i>
Jeb Bush <i>Florida</i>	George Pataki <i>New York</i>	Thomas Vilsack <i>Iowa</i>	Tim Pawlenty <i>Minnesota</i>	Ted Kulongoski <i>Oregon</i>
	Bill Richardson <i>New Mexico</i>	Kenny Guinn <i>Nevada</i>	Rod Blagojevich <i>Illinois</i>	Jon Corzine <i>New Jersey</i>

April 5, 2006

The Honorable Frank R. Wolf
Chairman, Subcommittee on Science, State, Justice and Commerce
and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Alan B. Mollohan
Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Science, State, Justice and Commerce
and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Wolf and Representative Mollohan:

As you prepare to markup the FY07 Science, State, Justice and Commerce and Related Agencies appropriations bill, we write to express our continued support for the State Criminal Alien Assistance Program (SCAAP). Specifically, we are requesting that you provide \$850 million for SCAAP in FY07, as authorized under the law. These funds are critical to states such as ours and needed to at least partially offset the costs our taxpayers are bearing as a result of the failure to control illegal entries along our international borders.

We appreciate Congress's action last year to reauthorize SCAAP as part of the Violence Against Women and Department of Justice Reauthorization Act of 2005. This reauthorization is an important statement on the broad, bipartisan support SCAAP enjoys in Congress. While Congress has provided help in maintaining this program, more help is needed. As Governors, we are well aware of the difficult choices that must be made in prioritizing funding. We want to reiterate our strong support for SCAAP and to assure you of the critical importance of this program. Each year, thousands of undocumented aliens who have committed crimes in our states are incarcerated in state or local facilities. SCAAP provides only a partial, but important, reimbursement for the cost to incarcerate these individuals.

We stand committed and ready to work with the federal government to protect our nation. However, until the federal government can achieve the goal of securing our borders,

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every effort should be made to help state and local governments cover a greater share of the considerable expense we incur to incarcerate undocumented criminal aliens.

Thank you for your consideration of our request. Again, we appreciate your past commitment to SCAPP and look forward to continuing to work with you to ensure that this program remains a viable program for reimbursing state and local governments.

Sincerely,



Arnold Schwarzenegger
Governor of California



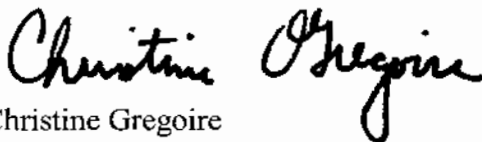
Janet Napolitano
Governor of Arizona



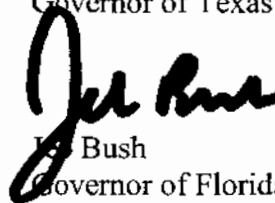
Sonny Perdue
Governor of Georgia



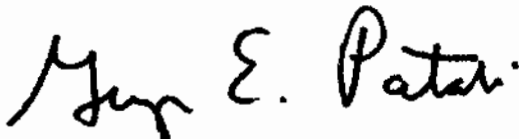
Rick Perry
Governor of Texas



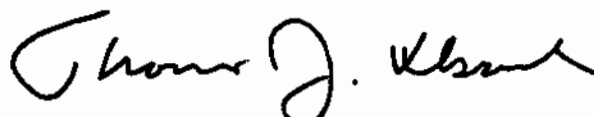
Christine Gregoire
Governor of Washington



Jeb Bush
Governor of Florida



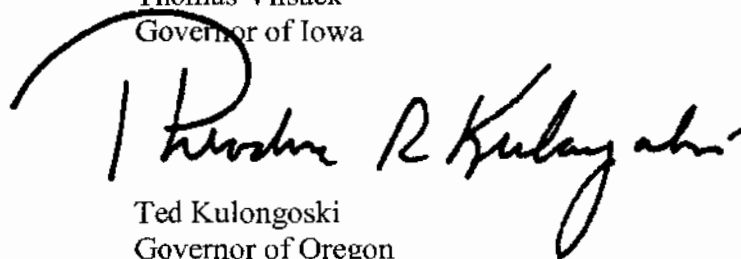
George Pataki
Governor of New York



Thomas Vilsack
Governor of Iowa



Tim Pawlenty
Governor of Minnesota



Ted Kulongoski
Governor of Oregon

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Bill Richardson
Governor of New Mexico



Kenny Guinn
Governor of Nevada



Rob Blagojevich
Governor of Illinois



Jon Corzine
New Jersey

cc: The Honorable Jerry Lewis, Chairman
The Honorable David R. Obey, Ranking Member